

Hindu Scriptures

Religion: 840:204-01 Spring 2013

T-F 9:50-11:10

Hardenbergh A1 (CAC)

Instructor: Paul H. Sherbow

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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:

The course will offer a close reading of the short, but significant *Īśa Upaniṣad*, focusing on issues arising from the text, and with reference to traditional commentaries. Additional passages from the *Kaṭha Upaniṣad*, the *Bhagavad-gītā*, and the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* will enrich our understanding of philosophical and religious background of the work.

Course Prerequisites:

None.

Course Requirements:

Mid-term and final examinations and a final paper (8-10 pgs) due the last day of class. The final paper gives students an opportunity to probe and research in more detail aspects of Hindu texts covered in the course.

Grading:

The mid-term will account for 20% of the total grade, the final examination 30% and the final paper 40%, and class attendance and participation 10%. Students will be called upon in class to answer questions pertaining to the week's reading. **No** make-ups for missed exams will be given without valid medical proof or a signed letter from a student dean.

A = 100-90 B+ = 89-87; B = 86-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-70; D = 69-65; F = 64 and below.

Please note that outstanding class participation can make all the difference between grades.

Required Course Text:

Swami, A. C. Bhaktivedanta. *Śrī Īśopaniṣad*. Los Angeles: Bhaktivedanta Book Trust.

Additional supplementary texts will be provided by the instructor.

Course Schedule

1 Tue / Jan 22

Īśa Upaniṣat - Introduction: *Upaniṣat* – derivation of the term; BU 5.1.1 – fullness (*pūrṇatva*) in relation to the Absolute;

2 Fri / Jan 25

Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 1: *Īśa* – concept and derivation of the term; the essence of controllership; the relation between *Īśa* and the universe; *jagat* – the moving; *vāśya* or pervasion / covering; ethical consequences of relationship with the Absolute.

3 Tue / Jan 29

Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 2-3 – necessity of work; concept of *karma*; consequence of non-work;

4 Fri / Feb 1

Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 4 – qualities of the Absolute:

5 Tue / Feb 5

Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 5-7 – results of knowledge of the Absolute

6 Fri / Feb 8

Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 8 – qualities of the Absolute

7 Tue / Feb 12

Īśa Upaniṣat - Texts 9-14 – *Vidyā & Avidyā*

8 Fri / Feb 15

Īśa Upaniṣat - Texts 15-18 – Preparation for Death

9 Tue / Feb 19

Kaṭha Upaniṣat

10 Fri / Feb 22

Kaṭha Upaniṣat

11 Tue / Feb 26

Kaṭha Upaniṣat

12 Fri / Mar 1

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter II

13 Tue / Mar 5

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter II

14 Fri / Mar 8

Mid-term Examination

15 Tue / Mar 12

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter II

16 Fri / Mar 15

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter II

17 Tue / Mar 26

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

18 Fri / Mar 29

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

19 Tue / April 2

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

20 Fri / April 5

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

21 Tue / April 9

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

22 Fri / April 12

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter V

23 Tue / April 16

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter V

24 Fri / April 19

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter V

25 Tue / April 23

Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Canto III

26 Fri / April 26

Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Canto III

27 Tue / April 30

Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Canto XI

28 Fri / May 3

Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Canto XI

Last Class – *Papers Due*